

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 41, NO. 8
OCTOBER 1986

52 East 41 Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 679-9650

Up-and-Coming

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m.—Author Richard Kluger on "The Paper: The Life and Death of the New York Herald Tribune." Bogert Room.

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m.—OPC semi-annual membership meeting, Mezzanine Floor.

Friday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m.—First-ever Vietnam Correspondents Reunion Dinner, Seventh Regiment Armory, 643 Park Avenue, 6 p.m. reception, cash bar; 7:30 p.m. dinner, \$40 per person. Advance reservations and payment required.

Except as noted, Members Free, Guests \$4. Cash bar all functions. Reserve with Mary Novick 679-9650.

OPC VIETNAM MEDIA REUNION

Responses from near and far as word spreads to era's star correspondents

The first national reunion of the men and women who covered the long war in Vietnam will be held Nov. 21 under OPC sponsorship.

It could become, one broadcast paper reports, a "major media event" attracting several hundred of the reporters, photographers, television and radio correspondents and magazine writers who did tours of duty in Saigon and elsewhere in Indochina in the 1960s and '70s.

"We are putting the emphasis on an evening of renewing old acquaintances, reminiscing and catching up with friends and colleagues," said the OPC announcement.

The reception and dinner, starting at 6 p.m., will be held at the 7th Regiment Armory, 643 Park Avenue in New York, site of the highly successful reunion of former Moscow reporters staged by the club in 1983.

No Long Speeches

There will be no long speeches, the OPC dinner committee promises. Several people who were directly involved are being asked to offer their reflections 11 years after the United States ended its military involvement in Vietnam with the fall of the country to the Communists.

Among those being sought to speak briefly are former U.S. ambassadors, and award-winning reporters and photographers who covered various phases of the war.

Al Kaff, longtime OPC member, was the moving force in organizing the reunion. He serves as co-chairman of the committee with Bryce Miller, a former Saigon bureau chief for UPI, and H.L. Stevenson, who was responsible for UPI's coverage of the war while serving as editor-in-chief of the wire service. Kaff is another UPI Asian veteran, and reported from Saigon long before the American involvement.

4,000 Covered

An estimated 4,000 journalists were accredited at various times in Vietnam, with the press corps numbering about 500 at the height of the war.



OPC Reunion co-chairman Bryce Miller, founding president of Foreign Correspondents' Association of Vietnam, introduces then Prime Minister Nguyen Kao Ky at group's first meeting in 1966.

See Page 3

Big turnout for OPC fall openers

OPC's opening fall events were a spectacular success:

Great programs. Big turnout.

A crowd of 65 came to hear the talk on the late Edward R. Murrow by his biographer, Ann M. Sperber, and, as might be expected, found it fascinating.

And it was standing room only with more than 150 foot-tapping, hand-clapping buffs at one of the most delightful OPC Twilight Jazz concerts ever.

Ms. Sperber, who spent 12 years researching-writing the book, told the inside story of Murrow:

- His pre-war involvement rescuing German scholars threatened by Hitler.

- His early efforts in England to give radio the privilege of the Fourth Estate.

- His brief post-war confrontation with the politics of the CBS corporate boardroom.

- His "See It Now" programs which helped undermine Joe McCarthy red-baiting.

- His USIA service as a propagandist for America.

- And the years before his untimely demise of lung cancer in '65 at age 57.

Murrow: His Life and Times (Freundlich, \$22.95)

Never was Wilma Dobie more on target than when she heralded the 17th year of Twilight jazz with the declaration:

"These greats are THE most!"

Some of New York's leading jazz musicians were among those who turned out to hear Richard Sudhalter, cornetist, New York Post jazz columnist, ex-UPI correspondent; Warren Vache Jr., trumpeter son of the noted bassist-jazz journalist; OPC's Jane Jarvis at piano.

Also these jazz notables: Al Hall, bass; Jackie Williams, bass; Howard Alden, guitar, and Dan Barrett, trombone.

They proved the music of Bix Beiderbecke and Bunny Berigan is better today than anything the '80s have to offer—an opinion offered with admitted prejudice for the better things in life.

Walter J. Daimond, back with wife, **Dorothy**, from Morocco, Gibraltar and Liechtenstein, answers plea for ideas to improve The Bulletin, suggesting "short, on-the-spot reports, economic as well as political, from journalists, economists, like myself, upon returning from overseas assignments." Daimond, editor-principal, Murphy, Hauser, O'Connor & Quinn, you're on! You or Mrs. Daimond, Editor, *Overseas Press*, please write one for next issue.

From the president

Help make OPC events great

By **HERBERT KUPFERBERG**

While the OPC offers—or so I'd like to think—a variety of benefits to its members, none is more important than the kind of programs it puts on.

As I indicated in my first message in this space, programming is at the top of our current priorities. We think we've arranged a pretty strong schedule by way of a start—you'll find information about some of our events elsewhere in this issue. Right now we're working on programs for late winter and spring. Our Program Committee co-chairpersons are Rosalie Brodie and Jim Gaines, and they have an able committee working with them.

But what we really need is involvement of more of our members in proposing ideas and carrying them out—with emphasis on the latter. As it is, we get plenty of input on program ideas in the sense of whom to invite or what kind of events to stage. But we don't get as much output as input—that is, we have very few people who come to the Program Committee and say, in effect, "Here's an idea and I'd like to work to make it happen." This kind of active participation in an event can be of great benefit to the Club, and it also has its rewards, I have found, in personal satisfaction.

Equally important in assuring the quality of our events is, simply, the act of attending them. I'm sure I'm giving away no secrets in acknowledging that there have been events in the past that have had attendance skimpy to the point of embarrassment, and even events that we have had to cancel because the number of reservations was so low. We can't afford to do things like that—it diminishes our standing to outsiders who become aware of the situation, and it also costs us something in self-respect. It isn't a matter of cost, either, for several of the programs I refer to have been free to members.

As I say, I believe our programs are worthwhile, and they also serve a valuable purpose in bringing OPC members together socially. Even if a speaker or an event may not be at the top of your own personal-interest list, you may be in for a pleasant surprise. So if you're in the area, I hope you'll make a point of attending some of the programs that your fellow-members have worked hard to arrange.

One particular problem we have is getting word of our events out to you on time. Thanks to a number of factors, not least of all the slowness of the U.S. mails, the Bulletin sometimes arrives *after* rather than before the event. Sometimes events have to be scheduled at the last minute, and thanks to our limited budget it's not always possible to send out postcard notices. We're trying to overcome this deficiency. One way is by posting new events on the Club Bulletin board. You can also get information by phoning the Club office. We'd like to see as many members as possible stay in touch with the Club, and make it part of their lives.

OPC's Redmont quits as dean of BU Comm School, protesting USIA deal

OPC'er **Bernard S. Redmont** has resigned as Dean of Boston University's College of Communication in the wake of differences with the university administration over a proposed project to train Afghan refugee journalists in Pakistan.

Redmont will remain at BU as an active faculty member. President John R. Silber has named him dean emeritus, with board of trustees approval. He is spending a working sabbatical in London for the fall semester, supervising the journalism and communication program which he helped to set up in England. In January he will return to teaching at the College of Communication.

Redmont, his three department heads and most of his faculty had proposed the training program for Afghans in Boston. They opposed doing the project in Peshawar, on the frontier with Afghanistan.

Redmont and other faculty members questioned whether a sound and credible academic program could be conducted "in the turmoil of a volatile refugee center teeming with secret agents, warring tribal factions, ethnic and religious groups and intense emotions."

Other professors said they were also concerned about logistical and administrative difficulties on the border. They feared the college might become involved in a propaganda effort.

The \$500,000 project is being financed by the U.S. Information Agency. The award was granted in part to BU and in part to King Features Syndicate to create an Afghan news service.

Redmont declined comment on his resignation as dean and did not mention the Afghan project in his letter of resignation.

Vietnam

OPC played role in Daniloff protests

The OPC added its voice to the many protesting the arrest and detention of Nicholas Daniloff, Moscow correspondent of U.S. News and World Report.

Soon after Daniloff's arrest, the OPC wired Soviet ambassador Yuri Dubinin in Washington, protesting the "unwarranted arrest of Nicholas Daniloff. He has impeccable reputation as journalist.

"It is cruel to make him scapegoat and victimize this individual, who is innocent of accusation lodged against him. The world recognizes that story about him was fabricated.

"We urge you free Daniloff, and with his duty tour ended, permit him to leave Soviet Union."

A copy of the same message was wired to U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Then, at the request of U.S. News and World Report, the OPC agreed to join other major press organizations and leading dailies in protesting Daniloff's arrest.

All your news that fits

Please keep telling us what you're doing. OPCers' activities make for a better OPC Bulletin. We're trying to keep up with the items you've been sending. We'll admit it's not quite original but our motto is, "All your news that fits."



Bureau Chief Miller and Photo Chief Dirck Halstead covering demonstration in Saigon, 1966.

From Page 1

The committee has sent notices to all major news organizations in the United States, foreign press clubs in Tokyo, Hong Kong and elsewhere and press clubs in this country. Individual invitations have gone to more than 400 whose names and addresses were tracked down by Kaff, who was recently named managing editor of the news bureau at Cornell University.

Inquiries already have come from as far away as London.

Miller is organizing an exhibition of photographs of the reporters in action, in the field and in various press outposts throughout the country.

Military Press Officers

Military press officers, many of whom were involved in the frequently boisterous Five O'Clock Follies in Saigon, the official briefings, are being invited.

Those who covered the war can be found scattered all across the United States, Stevenson said, in appealing to the heads of major newspapers and broadcast outlets to post the OPC notices.

OPC members with friends who were involved are urged to submit their names and addresses to the OPC offices.

"It has been 11 years since the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam," Stevenson said. "The people who reported and photographed the war have scattered far and wide. Many have suggested some type of reunion. Thanks to the hard work of Al Kaff and the support of past president Anita Diamant and current president Herb Kupferberg, the OPC is proud to be the catalyst."

In addition to those involved in coverage of the Vietnam war, their friends and relatives, Stevenson said all members of the media, and OPC members in particular, are invited as well as others with a particular interest such as those who served there in other capacities or who have been involved in recording the history of the era.

Advance reservations are required. Use form on this page to reserve, for Vietnam Media Reunion Dinner, Friday, Nov. 21, cash bar reception 6 p.m.; dinner 7:30 p.m.; \$40 per person; Seventh Regiment Armory, 643 Park Avenue, New York.

VIETNAM MEDIA REUNION

Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ places in my name for the reunion dinner at \$40 per person. Checks made payable to Overseas Press Club must accompany reservations. Reservations must be received by Nov. 14. Send to Overseas Press Club, 52 East 41st St., New York, NY 10017.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization _____

OPTIONAL: I covered the war in Vietnam for (organization)

_____ in (years) _____



HUG OF APPRECIATION from new president Herb Kupferberg to past president Anita Diamant

On being a foreign correspondent today

The following quotes are lifted from David Shaw's series in the Los Angeles Times on the state of foreign correspondents today.

What those involved say about being a foreign correspondent in the 1980s:

David Zucchino, Philadelphia Inquirer (Nairobi): "Romance and glamor... (are) only about 1 percent of the job... (The other 90 percent is) trying to get the phones to work, and trying to track people down and trying to get where you want to go, usually in places that are hot and dirty and things don't work and nobody wants to talk to you."

Malcolm Browne, New York Times and ex-AP (now a science writer): "One would not want to be a foreign correspondent purely to cover Burke's Peerage in the British Isles. One assumes you're going to be sent into conflict... Almost by definition, a foreign correspondent is a war correspondent."

John Vinocour, ex-foreign reporter, now metro editor of The New York Times: "(Americans are) not interested in what we're not immediately involved in or what doesn't represent either pain or pleasure in the next five minutes."

Jim Yuenger, Chicago Tribune (Warsaw), on the high divorce rate among foreign correspondents: "Foreign correspondence tends to be a marriage-buster."

Note: Shaw reported decline in the number of correspondents and in newspaper space given to foreign coverage but said:

"There is some indication that in the last two or three years, more reporters are becoming interested in foreign assignments again and more editors are becoming interested in foreign news again."

One reason Shaw gave is some studies showing reader interest in foreign news.

Agate Advertisements

OPC Bulletin accepts classified ads in what may be best media influentials buy. \$5 minimum for up to three lines, \$1.75 for each line thereafter. 46 characters per line. Check must accompany typed copy submitted to OPC by 14th of month preceding publication.

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Our raw copy deadline

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the month preceding publication.

OPC exhibits pix 'unclassifiable'

The photos in the OPC November exhibit are unclassifiable, according to the photographer-artist himself.

No "commonplace little exposures" these, says Ram Blackamoor. "Think of the joy of doing something which it would be impossible to classify."

"The basic technique is a simple one," he says. "The artist uses timed exposures to enhance or distort light and shadow at will."

You'll want to see the result from his Classic Forms collection on display in the lounge November 2-30.